168. Disabilities of the Muslims of Travancore in securing proper representation in public service.

MR. N. M. OOMARKUTTI (*Nominated*) said that, although the cry for the entertainment of all communities in the public service was a long-standing one, some communities still suffered from a disability in this respect. The Muslim community was one such. To remove this disability, the member made the following suggestions:—

(1) Qualified Muslims should be appointed in all departments as far as possible on the basis of their numerical strength.

(2) Those who are newly appointed and who have already been appointed should be given preferential treatment in giving promotions, for a specified period.

(3) Muslims should be appointed in the lower and higher ranks of the Judicial Department.

(4) Qualified Muslims should be appointed in the Revenue, Excise, Registration and Education Departments.

(5) The acting hands in the Revenue and Registration Departments should be continued. without break.

(6) A Muslim should be appointed as Professor of Mahomedan Law in the Law College.

(7) The Recruitment Committee should be asked to begin its work early.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Oomarkutti, as I said just now, Muslims are being appointed in all departments except, of course, the Devaswom Department, and there is no rule or practice against their appointment. They have equal opportunities as members of other communities. The Recruitment Committee is going into the whole question, and a definite policy will be laid down as soon as that committee has reported on the matter of initial appointments.

169. Christians and public service.

MR. THOMAS THOMAS (*Pattanamtitta taluk*) said that everywhere the problem of recruitment to the public service was a vexed one. The system of education obtaining in the State produced men fit only for the public service and it was therefore no wonder that every educated man was a job-hunter. Most of the appointments in the Travancore service were held by caste Hindus who favoured only members of their own communities for further appointments, so that others found it difficult to enter Government service. The importance of every community depended on the number of officers in it. The Christians in Travancore constituted more than a third of her population. In point of education, wealth, tax payment, trade and industry they were second to none. So also in running educational institutions and doing philanthropic work they stood foremost. But in the public service they were poorly represented. They were not entertained in the Military

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